

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

These claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the present application.

(Claims 1 to 16 are cancelled)

17. (NEW) A crown for a timepiece including a housing of axis X1 inside which are arranged in particular:

at least one first element, able to be deformed resiliently, cooperating in rotation about said axis X1, in at least a first direction of rotation, with a rigid element, as long as the rotational couple transmitted by one of said elements to the other is less than a predefined value beyond which said first deformable element is capable of being deformed to disconnect the rotational cooperation between said first element and said rigid element, wherein a pipe including, in the region of a first end, means for securing a winding stem, is disposed within the housing of axis X1 wherein said resiliently deformable element 4 is secured to said pipe whatever the value of the rotational couple, whereas said rigid element is fixed in relation to the crown, and wherein said deformable element cooperates in rotation with the inner periphery of the rigid element of annular shape.

18. (NEW) The crown according to claim 17, wherein said deformable element is a spring including a central base from which extend at least one and preferably at least two arms that can be deformed resiliently, said rigid element including a plurality of notches arranged opposite said deformable arms and for cooperating with respective surface regions of said deformable arms.

19. (NEW) The crown according to claim 18, wherein each of said arms includes two successive portions, a first short portion extending from said central base along a

substantially radial direction before exhibiting an elbow at substantially right angles extended by the second, substantially rectilinear, portion, carrying said corresponding surface region on at least one part of the external edge thereof.

20. (NEW) The crown according to claim 19, wherein each one of said second portions of the arms has one free threaded end ending in a rounded portion.

21. (NEW) The crown according to claim 20, wherein said rigid element is a ring arranged opposite said spring and the internal periphery of which includes alternating first short portions each oriented in a substantially radial direction, forming said notches, and second portions longer than said first portions and each oriented in a substantially tangential direction in relation to said axis X1, said second portions being capable of cooperating with said surface regions of the arms.

22. (NEW) The crown according to claim 21, wherein, in a direction of rotation corresponding to the direction of inclination of said elbow in relation to the direction of said corresponding first portion, said free ends of the arms cooperate with said notches such that a movement of rotation of said rigid element causes a movement of rotation of said spring in the same direction, whatever the value of the transmitted rotational couple.

23. (NEW) The crown according to claim 18, wherein said spring is arranged in the region of the second end of said pipe opposite to said first end.

24. (NEW) The crown according to claim 23, wherein said pipe has, at said second end, a projecting portion substantially aligned with said axis X1 and whose periphery has a

non-circular shape, said central base of said spring having a hole substantially aligned with said axis X1 and whose shape is adapted to cooperate with said projecting portion in a movement of rotation.

25. (NEW) The crown according to claim 24, wherein said periphery of said projecting portion has a polygonal shape, preferably a square shape.

26. (NEW) The crown according to claim 21, wherein there is provided a support element secured inside said housing of the crown and of substantially complementary shape to the shape of the latter, said deformable and rigid elements and said pipe being arranged inside said support element.

27. (NEW) The crown according to claim 26, wherein said rigid element is secured to said support element, whereas said pipe includes a tube and a head of substantially flat annular shape, whose diameter is greater than the diameter of said tube, and arranged in the region of said second end of the pipe, an additional annular element being secured to said support element abutting against said head of the pipe to hold the latter along the direction of axis X1 while allowing a relative movement of rotation of said two elements in relation to axis X1.

28. (NEW) The crown according to claim 17, wherein said rigid element is made of a metal or ceramic material.

29. (NEW) The crown according to claim 28, wherein said deformable and rigid elements have respective hardnesses of similar values.

30. (NEW) The crown according to claim 17, wherein a plurality of identical deformable elements are stacked so as to cooperate with said rigid element in order to increase said predefined rotational couple value.

31. (NEW) The crown according to claim 24, wherein said projecting portion has a thickness at least equal to double the thickness of said deformable element, a second stage including additional deformable and rigid elements being arranged in superposition in relation to the first stage in the opposite direction, i.e. to have a similar function to the function of said first stage in the opposite direction of rotation, the crown having at least two axial positions in relation to said winding stem, said first stage operating in a first axial position of the crown whereas said second stage operates in the second axial position.

32. (NEW) A timepiece including the crown according to claim 17.